

The Weekly True Democrat.

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NO. 14.

Good Government; Honesty in Public Office; Equal Justice to All--Special Privileges to None.

MANY COMMITTEE INVESTIGATIONS.

Some Extracts from House and Senate Committee Reports.

REBATES ON SICK CONVICTS.

Under a House resolution, a committee, of which Mr. Matthews, of Bradford, was chairman, on Monday made an extended report in substance as follows:

First--That the lessees of the State convicts for the four years ending January 1, 1906, have, for a portion of the time, to wit, during the years 1903 and 1904, been granted rebates for convicts confined in the hospital near Ocala.

Second--During the period stated in the foregoing paragraph the lessees have been rebated on various prisoners confined in the hospital a total of 26,515 days.

Third--The amount deducted from the contract price for prisoners confined in the said hospital amounts to \$11,005.54 for the two years named.

Fourth--The lessees have been given credit for escaped convicts during the existence of the present lease to the amount of \$5,186.98.

The committee presented a collection of valuable information concerning the management of the State convicts, and recommended that the Attorney-General be instructed to recover the amount of \$16,192.52 thus shown to be due from the convict lessees.

The practice of giving rebates to the lessees on such convicts originated with the Jennings administration, according to the committee's report, but is being continued under the present contract. If it is unauthorized by the terms of the contract, it will, of course, be discontinued; and the committee is correct in demanding the recovery of the sums thus unlawfully allowed.

STATE PRINTING RUMORS.

In the Senate, on Tuesday, Senator West, chairman of the special committee to investigate the charge that certain persons were connected with State printing contract in violation of law, submitting the following report: Your committee appointed in compliance with Senate resolution No. 46, as amended, relative to the alleged rumors that members of the Board of State Institutions were interested in the Capital Publishing Company, and with the State printer in his contract with the State, beg leave to report that the said committee has taken the testimony of all witnesses suggested and made a thorough examination and find that while there were rumors to the effect that members of the Board of State Institutions were interested in the printing contract, we find that there is absolutely no foundation for said rumors and nothing in the testimony to indicate that any member or members of said board are now, or have heretofore been interested in said printing concern or any other printing business. The evidence taken by the committee was ordered printed in the journal of Friday.

HOSPITAL REPORT AFTERMATH.

Late on Tuesday afternoon Governor Broward submitted to the Senate and House a voluminous document signed by all of the members of the present Board of State Institutions, and comprising an answer to the report of the joint committee which investigated the insane hospital under House concurrent resolution No. 5. After being read, it was committed to the table subject to call in each house. The enormous volume of the document precludes any attempt to give even an abstract of its contents, and its publicity, like that of the committee's report, must depend on its publication in full in the legislative journals and the daily press.

This answer or protest of the board makes an elaborate defense against the substance and spirit of the committee's report, and labors with feverish anxiety to discredit the report and the members of the joint committee.

If the board had been content to repel or deny such accusations made by the committee as it deemed unjust or inaccurate or untrue, the effect of its protest would have been in accord with the purpose of accomplishing the ends of justice, and indicative of the natural desire of the present board to correct any abuses or irregularities committed or practiced under the administration of its predecessor; but the board goes far beyond such laudable purpose in assuming, inferentially, as the representative of the present administration, full responsibility for the shortcomings of the Jennings administration.

The fact should not be forgotten or lost sight of that the joint committee carefully defined the period during which the alleged abuses were practiced and irregularities permitted to occur, as one distinctly anterior to that covered by the few months of the present administration--a distinction abundantly sustained by the evidence which the committee submitted with its report. The committee went even further, and specifically commended and complimented the administration of the affairs of the institution by its present managers. Confusion between the former and present board, because four of its mem-

bers have served on both boards, is avoided when the fact is remembered that under existing methods of procedure the sole responsibility of calling the board together rests with the Governor, as president, who is largely responsible for the presentation to the board, when in session, of matters which should demand its consideration. Wherefore, it was entirely possible for every charge of the committee's report to be true (as they must be presumed to be until evidence is submitted to disprove them), without the existence of any reflection whatever upon the hold-over members of the present board.

On Thursday the consideration of the communication from the Board of State Institutions came up in both houses on resolutions reported by the special committees to whom the communication had been referred. Each house adopted the resolutions reported by its special committee, both being in the same language, showing that the two committees had conferred together on the subject. The vote in each house on the adoption of the committee reports was practically unanimous. Here follows a copy of the House committee's resolution, that of the Senate committee being substantially identical in language:

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 99.

Be it resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the communication from the Board of State Institutions transmitted by the Governor to the House of Representatives on May 30, 1905, is in its language and tone lacking in the courtesy and respect due to the House of Representatives.

That the Chief Clerk is directed to send to the Governor a copy of this Resolution, and to return to him said communication in order that he may transmit it to the Board of State Institutions.

But since the House of Representatives is willing to accord to said communication a publicity equal to that given to the report of the joint committee of the Senate and House of Representatives to which it purports to be an answer, the Chief Clerk is directed to have said communication printed in the journal immediately succeeding this Resolution.

Such a public rebuke, so dignified and self-respecting in tone and substance, so manifestly deserved, and so profoundly humiliating in effect, was never before administered to a chief magistrate or an executive board of the State government--at least, not in the history of Florida.

In effect, the whole body of untried legislators say to the board: "You wantonly insult a joint committee of this Legislature, and by so doing, insult the Senate and the House of Representatives and every individual member thereof, the same constituting a co-ordinate branch of the State government of equal, if not greater, dignity than yourselves or your organization. You constitute yourselves, or your board, the champions of a preceding State administration in whose integrity and probity no reputable citizen can believe, in the face of the revelations which have been made to us by the committee whose official action you seek to discredit, as well as by the action of other committees and through other channels of intelligence. We resent your unwarranted action in the only manner possible to gentlemen and return your communication, according to it, by a stretch of courtesy which it scarcely deserves, the same publicity heretofore given to the committee report which it purports to answer. In the exercise of an ordinary discretion it will doubtless appear best for you to address yourselves to the purpose of maintaining the reputation of the present administration, and let the former one take care of itself, and stand or fall by the record it has made."

At the night session of the House yesterday Mr. Noble, chairman of the second hospital investigating committee, presented a report, the purport of which was slightly to modify some of the expressions of the previous joint committee report. It was accompanied by the testimony taken, all of which was ordered published in the journal.

At the night sessions last night in the Senate, a very rich and handsome silver service was presented to President Trammell, and in the House a beautiful loving cup to Speaker Gilchrist, by the members; also a fine walking-stick, by the attaches.

A Disastrous Calamity.

It is a disastrous calamity, when you lose your health, because indigestion and constipation have sapped it away. Prompt relief can be had in Dr. King's New Life Pills. They build up your digestive organs, and cure headache, dizziness, colic, constipation, etc. Guaranteed by all Druggists. 25c.

Notice.

The Seaboard sleeping car service between Tallahassee and Jacksonville on the night train will be discontinued after the leaving of the train Sunday morning, June 4th.

And Charlie Dickinson, private secretary to the Governor, seems to have been mixed up in the asylum scandal. Wonder if Governor Broward will let him purchase some more drugs for that institution?--Perry Topics.

LAST WEEK OF THE SESSION.

Brief Notes of Legislative Action on Important Bills.

The demands upon our space for attention to the numerous investigation episodes which have distinguished the latter part of the session of the Legislature have prevented the continuance of a connected abstract of the proceedings from week to week; and in this issue we have room only for brief mention of the fate of a few of the measures which have been regarded as of paramount issue.

So far as the several investigations are concerned, while definite results in the way of correction of alleged abuses and irregularities have not fully materialized, the chief purpose of the several attempts to accomplish the same has been abundantly subserved, and that was, to direct public attention to conditions which were generally known or believed to exist, but which had not come into the bright light of publicity sufficiently to enable the public at large to form an opinion concerning them. The people of the entire State are now advised of these conditions; and whether any corrections or reformations result from legislative action or not, it is quite safe to say that a continuance of the evils complained of will be at the risk of the severest public displeasure, resulting finally in appropriate penalties, and that the entire group of accusations is in excellent condition for appropriate action at the next session of the Legislature.

Among the matters disposed of during this last week were the following:

The Senate indefinitely postponed Senator Neel's bill providing for the creation of "Bloxxham county" from a part of Holmes county.

The House indefinitely postponed the executive committee's bill to amend the primary election law, introduced by Speaker Gilchrist. Also Senate and House bills providing for a uniform system of school books.

Substitute for Senate bill providing for a commission to consider the needs and condition of the hospital for the insane and report to the next Legislature was passed by the Senate.

Both houses have passed a bill creating a State board of accountancy.

The House passed Senate resolution of amendment to the Constitution increasing the salary of the Governor to \$5,000.

Both houses passed a bill granting a pension of \$25 a month to Gen. William Miller, of Washington county.

House bill to prohibit combinations fixing the price of ice to consumers was defeated in the Senate by a vote of 14 to 16.

Mr. Rosborough's resolution providing for the examination of private banks was adopted in the House.

Both houses adopted a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution increasing the salaries of supreme court justices to \$4,000, and circuit judges to \$3,500.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

To Senators and Representatives and Others Interested.

Gentlemen:

You have had abundant opportunity, during the present session, to read the Weekly True Democrat, and its proprietor hopes that you have enjoyed its contents and approve its course, and that you feel assured that its purpose is to give, as fully as is possible, all of the news and happenings at the State Capital, without fear, favor or bias of any kind, save for the interests of the people of the State.

Everything pertaining to the conduct of the State Government, in all of its several departments, and particularly with reference to the laws enacted at the recent session, must necessarily continue to be of paramount interest to you, and therefore respectfully invite you to subscribe to our paper so that you may enjoy its weekly visits throughout the ensuing year.

And if you like The True Democrat well enough to subscribe for it yourself, it will be only fair for you to recommend it to your friends and neighbors who may not have had an opportunity of seeing it.

Correcting a Total.

We published last week a resume of the several reports made to the Senate by the Governor, the trustees of the internal improvement fund and the railroad commission, showing the amounts paid out by each during the past four years for special counsel fees and ex-

penses, the tabulated result being a total of \$42,372.70. Since then our attention has been called to an omission in the report made for the internal improvement trustees in response to the said Senate resolution. The amount thus reported, \$3,751.40, does not appear to include an amount of \$2,500 paid or ordered paid on the 31st day of December, 1904, to R. W. Williams on account of legal services. Adding this sum, the total amount disbursed by the trustees would be \$6,251.40, and the grand total of all special counsel fees paid during the four years would be \$44,872.70, or an average per annum of \$11,218.17.

WOODVILLE ITEMS.

From Our Regular Correspondent.

The Epworth League met at the residence of Mrs. K. Howard Thursday night and elected officers.

Rev. J. D. Bush preached two sermons Sunday in the Methodist church. Geo. W. Lee and Miss Eveline Miller were married Sunday at 3 o'clock p. m. at the residence of Mr. J. F. Rodgers, Rev. Thos. J. Isler officiating. The happy couple left Monday morning for Wakulla where they will reside.

Mr. W. D. Levy and wife, Mrs. J. L. Robinson and Walter Horten visited Medart Friday and returned Sunday. They attended church while away. They report a good time.

Mrs. K. Howard and children left Saturday for Carrabelle where they will spend sometime visiting friends and relatives.

Mrs. R. E. Maxwell left Wednesday for Chaires, where she will remain until the close of her daughter's school.

There have been a good many drummers in Woodville this week.

State College Commencement.

The commencement exercises of the Florida State College begin tonight with the debate between the Platonist and Gordon societies. On Sunday morning at the Methodist church the Baccalaureate sermon will be preached by Rev. Dr. Jas. E. Dickey, president of Emory College, Ga., and at night Rev. W. E. H. Mabry will address the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A. Both of these distinguished gentlemen are pulpit orators of renown and their remarks will add much to the pleasure of the Commencement Day exercises.

Death of Burt Dyal.

News was received Tuesday by telegraph of the death of Hon. Burt G. Dyal, member of the House of Representatives for Nassau county, at his home in Moniac, Ga., at 4.30 a. m. of that day.

Mr. Dyal was one of the most prominent citizens of Florida, and had served as Representative several terms previous to the present one. He was a native of Georgia, and about 54 years of age. He was a man of sterling integrity and splendid business qualities, as his successful winning of a large fortune testifies. He will be greatly missed, not only in his home county but throughout the State, by a host of close friends made in every stage of his career from poverty to riches.

At Rest.

Little Marie, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, died at Popeville Tuesday morning after a short illness, and was buried in our city cemetery Wednesday afternoon at 3.30 p. m., Rev. Mr. Cramer of the Baptist church officiating. The pall bearers were Messrs. Walter Bennett, John Moore, Alex. Russell and Tony Burns. Undertaker Duncan conducted the funeral arrangements. The many friends and acquaintances of the bereaved parents extend to them their sincere sympathy in their sorrow.

FOUND! A universal Cleaner for all Metals. EASYBRIGHT--at L. C. Yaeger's.

Mr. J. W. Britton and his excellent wife, to the regret of their many Tallahassee friends, left for Thomasville again yesterday.

Gents Elastic Seam Drawers, 50c, at Evans'.

The merchants give notice that all stores will be closed at 6 o'clock commencing Monday afternoon, June 6. Remember this, and do all your business before that hour.

White Pleated Front Dress Shirts at Evans'.

Light Summer Suits and parts of Suits can be found at Wight & Burns.

On the 2nd page of this issue we have stated that the city sewerage system had been accepted by the city engineer. We were misinformed, and the statement is incorrect. The exact status of the matter as given us by City Inspector Mr. Robert Philips, is that the city engineer, W. W. Lyons, was in the city last week for the purpose of accepting the sewerage system, but on account of a few minor details that are as yet incomplete, returned to Palatka without accepting the system from the contractors, F. H. Beeman & Co. He expects to return the first of next week for the purpose of making his final acceptance.

The voting contest at the Capital City Pharmacy will begin tomorrow.

WHAT THE STATE NEWSPAPERS SAY.

Grand Symposium of Public Opinion By Those Who Know.

INSURANCE AND IMMIGRATION.

If the present session of the Legislature does nothing more than pass the bill for a State insurance company, it will have done for the people of Florida more than any previous session we know of. Of the many iniquitous combinations, the insurance combine is easily the worst, and the people should be freed from its grasp.--Fernandina News.

The Legislature should give due consideration to the bills looking toward systematic effort to attract desirable immigration. Florida should have a permanent bureau of immigration outside of politics, and devoted to building up the State. Immigration started the first settlement of white men on this continent, and has built every State in the Union. To neglect it is like neglecting the blood of the body.--Monticello News.

STATE PRINTER'S WOES.

And now the State printer is having his troubles--and from present indications his troubles bid fair to be as bad as some of his printing.--Madison New Enterprise.

The State printer seems to be up against it, and now that the game has been begun don't stop until everything of a state and public nature has been thoroughly investigated. While we are at it, let's take a little peep into the convict lease which was made to Walter Coachman, and out of which so much money was made and the foundation laid for the building of the new million-dollar bank in Jacksonville, of which the ex-governor is vice-president. Something rotten here as sure as you are born.--Manatee Record.

THE BUCKMAN BILL.

The Buckman bill should become a law. We have a raft of small State schools equipped as a rule with a lot of low-salaried, incompetent teachers, asking for appropriations running way up in the thousands. There is a lot of graft in the system and a shake up is due. If State money is going to so-called colleges with 60 to 80 students enrolled, why should the schools like Bethel and the J. C. I. in this county not be equally as well treated.--Monticello News.

Whatever the fate of the Buckman bill, which has passed the House, the people, we doubt not, would be better satisfied with two or three high-class educational institutions adequately supported by the State than half a dozen or more always "on the bum" through no fault of their own, reduced to all sorts of mean economies and perpetually scheming to coax from a reluctant Legislature enough money to keep from starving outright and going out of business. It is the operation of the inevitable law which makes for the survival of the fittest, that will either now or later on, eliminate the weaker and less useful colleges and concentrate the aid of the State upon a smaller number which can be adequately supported and made correspondingly strong and efficient.--Live Oak Democrat.

RADICAL INVESTIGATION.

The lid is being lifted and the odor of scandal pours forth from the State House. Will the Legislature furnish the needed disinfectant?--Bartow Courier Informant.

Now that the investigation fever has struck the State, let's do the job up right, and investigate all along the line. The people have a right to know what is being done, and an honest official has nothing to fear from investigation.--Manatee Record.

Now that the Legislature has gotten down to the real work whereunto the members were called, it is not surprising what an amount of corruption is being brought to light through the unbusiness-like neglect to properly cover up the late "business administration."--Palatka News.

TAFFY FOR LEGISLATORS.

Well, the boys will soon be returning from the "old red hills of Leon." About the biggest thing the most of them have done is to draw their \$5 per. As Legislators go, the present one stands about at par. The only consolation coming to the people is "it might have been worse."--Manatee Record.

Just a few more days and the present term of the Legislature will be a thing of history. Then the lawyers will take a hand and see how many of the laws enacted can be proven unconstitutional.--Mariana Times-Courier.

The splendid achievements of several of the new members of the Legislature go far to prove the falsity of the statement that it takes at least one session for one to "learn the ropes," etc. Buckman, of Duval; Sistrunk, of Marion, and Avery, of Escambia, are recognized as the most potent factors in the House, while Crane, of Hillsborough; Zim, of St. Johns, and Humphries, of Manatee, take high rank in the deliberations of the Senate. Yet they are all "new" men.--Palatka Times-Herald.